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In picturing the conference account must be taken of the continual battering it had to sustain from outside — the shocks and crises. Surround themselves as they might with guides; deny themselves as they might to the imploring representatives of every cause and every distress that the sun shines upon, their world could not escape the political, social and economic shocks and explosions which went on regularly throughout the months. However busy they were with outlining a plan for a league to keep the peace, they could not escape the fact that wars were breaking out and running their course daily. The armistice did not end plotting in Germany; it did not protect Austria-Hungary from the invasion of the enemy feared, Russian Bolshevicism; they could not shut their eyes to the cries of starvation that came from all parts of Europe. That might not go into the devastated regions of France, but they had to hear the constant plea of the French not to decide until they had seen what had happened. There were crises, and crises, and crises.

Serious men came back from London and said "At last it has come - the ^{the upheaval of the labor system.} ~~revolution~~ A continual prophecy of riot and discussion all upon them from all parts of the world; riots in Paris where they stayed; riots in India, and in Egypt which became facts; massacres in Turkey. Nothing but a body of men seeking to give all their time and attention to the most difficult and complicated task of adjustment that men ever had. Such an incessant bombardment of fearful facts and threats of fearful facts.

